

WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

POLICY: **3000**

Adopted: ***September 9, 2004***

SUBJECT: **Admissions for new and former students**

Approved by:

Larry Swift, Chair, Board of Trustees

PURPOSE: To describe the enrollment process for the on-site academic program and, if appropriate, residential services of the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD).

The on-site academic program of the WSD shall be free to residents of the state between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) years who are deaf, hearing impaired, or have other disabilities where a hearing impairment is the major need for services. Students reaching their 21st birthday during the academic year may remain for the duration of the school year. Additionally, students over the age of 21, who are otherwise qualified, may be retained at the school if in the discretion of the superintendent in consultation with the faculty, they are proper persons to receive further training given at the school and the facilities are adequate for proper care, education, and training.

Basis for Referral for Admission

A parent, guardian, surrogate parent, emancipated minor, adult student or local education agency (LEA) may refer a student for admission to WSD. WSD will assess the appropriateness of enrollment of the student. Applications for admission shall be in writing and include the reason(s) for referral. Reasons for referral may include, but not limited to, a need for:

1. services specific to Deaf and hearing impaired students, which are not readily available in the local school district;
2. more intensive language development;
3. assistive listening devices or other assistive technology;
4. greater array of auditory support services;
5. social skill development;
6. organizational skill development; and/or
7. transition planning to post-school outcomes.

Residential program services may be available to students requesting admission, given:

1. the student is accepted into the on-site academic program, and

2. the residential program has space availability and can provide the needed services, and
3. a one-way commute by school bus is greater than 60 minutes, or residential programming is otherwise required to provide the student a free appropriate public education; and
4. the student is able to finger-feed, chew and swallow most foods, indicate need for help when self-soiled or wet, and assist in self-dressing and bathing.

Basis for Denial of Admission

Adequate Facilities and Resources

WSD shall not admit a student if existing WSD resources cannot provide for the proper care, education, training, or transportation of the student, unless an inter-agency agreement can be executed with the local school district.

Safety Risk Factors

WSD shall not admit or retain a student who is an adjudicated level III sex offender as provided in RCW 13.40.217(3), and may refuse to admit or retain a student who is an adjudicated level I or level II sex offender. WSD will not admit students who have sexually victimized a student(s) currently enrolled at WSD.

Children who pose a safety risk to self or others cannot be admitted to WSD unless an individualized safety plan can be implemented with existing WSD resources. Enrollment of student at the WSD will be denied if the student presents a safety risk that cannot be effectively mitigated through a safety plan, utilizing existing WSD resources.

It is possible a safety plan using existing WSD resources may not effectively mitigate the perceived risk of harm if:

1. the student is an adjudicated Level I or Level II sexual offender or the student has been adjudicated for a violent offense;
2. the student has otherwise been deemed a sexually aggressive youth;
3. the student's needs must be addressed in a hospital setting or a residential treatment facility;
4. the student's primary ongoing needs are related to severe emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders;
5. the student has a documented history of severe behaviors in a prior school, educational or institutional setting; and/or
6. the student requires ongoing one-to-one adult supervision to protect himself/herself and/or others from harm.

Independent Review if Safety Risk Factors Evident

After a referral is accepted and before any enrollment, students demonstrating any of the above factors will require a determination on the part of the admissions team and/or Superintendent whether to proceed or deny the admission application. If the application is not denied outright, then WSD must propose a safety plan and send the plan with all other admissions materials to a qualified independent evaluator to determine the following:

1. Whether, in the professional opinion of the independent evaluator, the student presents a safety risk to self or others; and if so
2. Whether the proposed safety plan is sufficient to mitigate the perceived risk, and if not;
3. Whether there are modifications to the proposed safety plan that would mitigate the perceived risk.

Upon receipt of the written report of the independent evaluator, the Admissions team will determine whether to proceed to an Diagnostic Placement or deny the application. The Superintendent is authorized to override the decision of the Admissions team.

Diagnostic Placement

The student may receive educational and residential services, if applicable, prior to formal enrollment during Diagnostic Placement. The purposes of the Diagnostic Placement are to determine if the safety plan, if applicable, successfully mitigates any perceived risk, and/or to reevaluate the student's educational needs to develop an appropriate individualized education plan (IEP). Prior to receiving educational services during the Diagnostic Placement placement, an IEP meeting will be conducted. The purpose of the IEP meeting is to amend the current IEP from the LEA to reflect educational programming that will occur during the Diagnostic Placement at WSD. An LEA district representative is a required participant in the IEP meeting. The Diagnostic Placement will not exceed 35 school days, unless otherwise agreed to by the parent(s) and WSD.

Formal Enrollment Decision

Prior to the conclusion of the Diagnostic Placement placement, the Admissions team will meet to determine if the student should be enrolled in WSD, as the least restrictive environment (LRE). If so, an IEP meeting will be conducted immediately, incorporating new assessment information into the IEP.